

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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UNCLAS LUANDA 0275

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT AO PO MZ PFOR PINS SF

SUBJECT: JUNTA MEMBERS SEEK TO REASSURE LUANDA

1. SUMMARY: GENERALS COSTA GOMES AND NETO ARRIVED UNEXPECTEDLY IN LUANDA MAY 4 FOR TWO DAY VISIT. RETURN LISBON MAY 5-6. REMOVED TOP MILITARY COMMAND; APPOINTED GEN. FRANCO PINHEIRO CINC/ANGOLA. HELD PRESS CONFERENCE INTER ALIA SAYING REBEL MOVEMENTS SHOULD LAY DOWN ARMS AS CONDITION THEIR PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL DIALOGUE NOW UNDERWAY (DETAILS BY SEPTTEL); SPINOLA TO BE PRESIDENT OF PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL BE FORMED BY MAY 17. ACTIONS ON ARRIVAL, PREPARED STATEMENT AND ANSWERS TO PRESS SEEM DESIGNED TO REASSURE ANGOLANS AND REMOVE SOME OF UNCERTAINTIES WHICH WERE UNDERMINING THEIR MORALE. EFFECT PROBABLY TEMPORARY AT BEST, AND CAREFUL READING OF TRANSCRIPT MAY STIMULATE FURTHER DOUBTS LOCALLY. END SUMMARY.

2. SECOND MAN IN JUNTA, GENERAL COSTA GOMES AND JUNTA MEMBER NETO ARRIVED UNANNOUNCED BY PAF 707 MORNING MAY 4. COSTA GOMES RETURNS TO LISBON MAY 5-6. HE APPEARED 24 HOURS AFTER SIMILAR SURPRISE VISIT BY ADM. BAGULHO WHO HAD DECLINED TO SPEAK FOR JUNTA (OF WHICH HE IS NOT MEMBER). LOCAL SUPPOSITION IS COSTA GOMES AND NETO MAY HAVE MADE SUDDEN TRIP IN RESPONSE TO ADVICE FROM BAGULHO

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ON NEED TO GIVE BOOST TO SAGGING MORALE HERE.

3. GOMES ON ARRIVAL DISMISSED ACTING CINC ALVES AND HIS ARMY DEPUTY OLIVEIRA RODRIGUES; NAVAL COMMANDER ADM. SILVEIRA BORGES; PAF GEN. BRAZ OLIVEIRA; AND ZML COMMANDER GEN BARROSO HIPOLITO. (RECENTLY APPOINTED ZMN COMMANDER ALBERTY CORREIRA WAS FIRED EARLIER IN WEEK BY JUNTA.) REPLACING ALVES IS GENERAL JOAQUIM ANTONIO FRANCO PINHEIRO. OTHER COMMANDS STILL TO BE FILLED. NO SIMILAR HOUSECLEANING OF TOP CIVILIAN ECHELONS (EXCEPT GOVGEN ON APRIL 26), AND SEC GEN SOARES CARNEIRO SAT WITH COSTA GOMES AND NETO AT MAY 4 PRESS CONFERENCE.

4. IN PREPARED STATEMENT COSTA GOMES CALLED ON POPULACE TO SHOW LOVE, PATIENCE, GOOD WILL AND FOREGIVENESS. SAID HE HAD COME TO LARGEST PART OF PORTUGUESE NATION DELIBERATELY TO DRAMATIZE JUNTA'S DETERMINATION TO END THE POLITICAL SYSTEM WHICH HAD DRIVEN THOSE NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH IT INTO EXILE OR TO VIOLENCE. IN ANSWER TO HIS OWN RHETORICAL QUESTION WHETHER THE JUNTA PLANNED TO "ABANDON" THE OVERSEAS OR ALLOW UDI, COSTA GOMES SAID THE NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WOULD SEEK DURING THE YEAR AHEAD TO ENSURE THAT THE FUTURE WOULD REFLECT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE, DEMOCRATICALLY EXPRESSED.

5. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS DURING EXCHANGE LASTING ALMOST AN HOUR, (BROADCAST LIVE AND THEREAFTER ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY) COSTA GOMES REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT INSURGENT MOVEMENTS COULD PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL "DIALOGUE" NOW UNDERWAY ON CONDITION THEY FIRST LAY DOWN ARMS. (DETAILS BY SEPTTEL.) HE MADE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS.

A. "IT HAS NEVER OCCURRED TO US TO ENDANGER OR ABANDON OUR BROTHERS WHO SERVE" IN THE OVERSEAS. (THIS WAS IN REPLY TO A SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR REASSURANCE THAT ANGOLA'S FUTURE WOULD NOT DEPEND ON RESULTS OF A PLEBISCITE IN PORTUGAL CONDUCTED AMONG PEOPLE WHO UNFAMILIAR WITH ANGOLA. WHETHER BY DESIGN OR ACCIDENT, ANSWER SEEMS DIRECTED EXCLUSIVELY AT PORTUGUESE TROOPS.)

B. SPINOLA WILL BE FIRST PRESIDENT OF PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT (PG) BUT REST OF JUNTA WILL NOT BE MEMBERS. JUNTA COMMITTED TO NAMING PG WITHIN THREE WEEKS OF APRIL 25, I.E., BY MAY 17. JUNTA HAS HAD IN MIND POSSIBILITY OF APPOINTING ANGOLANS TO

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PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT BUT PG WILL HAVE TO DECIDE. NO MEMBER OF JUNTA WILL COME TO ANGOLA (THEY ARE TOO FEW AND ARE NEEDED AT HOME).

C. JUNTA WILL "GUARANTEE" THAT ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (MFA) PROGRAM WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY PG. ARMED FORCES WILL GUARANTEE SAFETY OF ALL POLITICAL GROUPINGS, AND PREVENT RETURN TO "REPRESSION" AS IN PAST. SPINOLA HAS ALREADY IMPRESSED ON LABOR

GROUPS IN METROPOLE NEED FOR DISCIPLINE AND JUNTA'S DETERMINATION TO PREVENT SERIES OF "LITTLE REVOLUTIONS" (THIS IN REFERENCE TO REPORTED TAKE-OVERS BY WORKERS OF CERTAIN COMPANIES IN PRORTUGAL).

D. THOSE WHO ANTICIPATE COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER IN METROPOLE ARE EXPERIENCING "UNFOUNDED FEARS." FOR ALMOST 50 YEARS NO POLITICAL ACTIVITY WAS ALLOWED. SINCE PCP IS THE ONLY GROUP WHICH IS REALLY ORGANIZED, THIS GIVES IT INITIAL BOOST, BUT JUNTA IS CONVINCED THAT MAJORITY REJECTS COMMUNISM. (THIS ANSWER GIVEN TO BBC WHICH HAD REFERRED TO FEARS SPECIFICALLY IN RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA.)

E. DGS ABOLISHED WITH "ESSENTIAL" FUNCTIONS NOW SPLIT UP AMONG JUCICIARY AND PUBLIC SECURITY POLICE AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE. VOLUNTEER DEFENSE FORCE (OPVDCA) HAS NOT BEEN DISBANDED BECAUSE ITS PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT AND SERVE RURAL POPULATIONS. (COSTA GOMES SIDESTEPPED QUESTION WHY DGS' FLECHAS NOT ABOLISHED TOO.) SAO JOSE LOPES NO LONGER IN CHARGE OF DGS FUNCTIONS, NOR DOES HE HOLD NAY POSITION IN NEW STRUCTURES. Q. IF SAO JOSE LOPES HAS NO JOB WHY IS HE STILL IN ANGOLA? A. HE WILL LEAVE ANGOLA AS
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